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To: [Cutler, Dawn RDML CHINFO](#)
Cc: (b) (6); [CHINFO, RESERVE CO:](#) (b) (6); (b) (6)
[NAVRESFORCOM, NR Joint Staff North](#)
Subject: (b) (6) - Potential Fox and Friends SUNDAY appearance
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2017 19:10:59
Attachments: [SECNAVINST 5720 44C CH-1 Chapter 1.pdf](#)
[SECNAVINST 5720 44C CH-1 Chapter 7.pdf](#)
[Guidance on Political Activity-PA Canon of Ethics.pdf](#)

CI:

BLUF: (b) (6), author of an Op-Ed which ran in (b) (6) supporting President Trump, has been asked to appear on Fox and Friends Sunday. I feel this is in clear violation of our PA Regs, Canon of Ethics, and all guidance issued. My recommendation to him will be he does not do the show, and have already provided him all the reference material. If you have other guidance, please advise.

BACKGROUND:

(b) (6) is Navy Reserve PAO in SELRES (paid/drilling) status with NR NAVCO ((b) (6), CO). He authored an Op-Ed piece in support of President Trump. The piece featured photos of him in uniform with President Obama when he was sworn in, and in civilian clothes with President Trump.

The headline (likely authored by Military Times) was "(b) (6)"

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Because of this article, he has been invited to appear on Fox and Friends Sunday. They would either pay to fly him out to NYC from (b) (6) (an ethics issue separate from this) or do a remote satellite interview.

He has stated that the Fox producer understands he will be in civilian clothes, and he does not speak for the Navy, and that his given title will be his current civilian job, (b) (6)

Just like he couldn't control the headline, he can't control what goes on TV. The photos of him with both Presidents are too good not to use, and he will likely be asked about his current status.

My read of the regulations and PA guidance would say that Navy PA professionals, military and civilian, are all subject to those guidelines, on or off duty.

Compounding this is that (b) (6) public persona is Naval Officer. It was, in fact, the HEADLINE of the (b) (6) Op-Ed. Yes, he didn't write the headline. But this is exactly why what he has said to Fox, and what the producer said, is not relevant. The photo of him with both candidates is too good a visual contrast to pass up.

I would contrast this to CDR Sean Spicer and (b) (6). Both were highly involved with the campaigns this election year, as RNC Spokesperson and Hillary Clinton's campaign chief. Both were highly visible. Yet neither of them have public personas highlighting their military service. CDR Spicer's recent appointment to White House Communication and Spokesperson did "unearth" this fact in his biography, but it is not his central identity.

(b) (6) source credibility for the (b) (6) article and the potential Fox and Friends appearance is derived entirely from the fact he is a current Naval officer.

Potential blowback: Fox could make him an example of the military censoring personnel, particularly reserve personnel who are not in a duty status. We have 4+ years of standing guidance that our role as communicators require this separation.

I have provided the attached documents to (b) (6) to provide (b) (6). I counsel against doing it.

I can be reached at (b) (6) if you wish to discuss.

Vr,

Robert Durand
RDML USN
Vice Chief of Information